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UMass Dartmouth Now Home to NOAA Fisheries Service CMER Program

NOAA Fisheries Service and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth have announced the initiation of a Cooperative Marine Education and Research (CMER) Program at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) in New Bedford. Dr. Steven X. Cadrin, of NOAA Fisheries Service's Northeast Fisheries Science Center, will direct the program.

CMER programs bring NOAA Fisheries Service in the Northeast together with academic researchers to focus on problems of common interest, and to train future experts in marine science.

"The CMER program at SMAST is a huge step forward, cementing our already excellent relation with NOAA," said Dr. Brian Rothschild, Dean of SMAST. "Dr. Cadrin, the CMER Director, will make a significant contribution to our program and will serve to link SMAST with opportunities at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and other science centers throughout NOAA."

NOAA CMER program directors simultaneously serve as adjunct professors at the institution that houses the program. In this capacity, Cadrin will teach graduate courses in quantitative fish stock assessment.

"The shared goals of NOAA and SMAST are important to me," said Cadrin, "conducting research that's relevant to sustaining marine ecosystems and fostering the next generation of fishery scientists. On a more personal note, this position also gives me the chance to continue some of the most rewarding aspects of my career so far, working on interdisciplinary studies, applying advanced technologies, and involvement with fishermen."

A fisheries biologist for 18 years, Cadrin completed his Ph.D. at the University of Rhode Island on the stock structure of yellowtail flounder in 2004. At the Northeast Fisheries Science Center he has most recently been responsible for stock assessments of this flounder and for managing the region's cooperative yellowtail flounder tagging program. Working with commercial fishing vessels and other partners, including SMAST researchers, the program has tagged nearly 30,000 yellowtail throughout New England waters.

The UMass/NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program was originally established in 1989 at UMass Amherst, where it remained for fifteen years, involving all the UMass campuses in marine issues affecting the Commonwealth, region and nation. Over those years, the program generated nearly \$2.9 million in research, involving 40 UMass faculty

and supporting 110 undergraduate and graduate students. NOAA CMER programs are now active at Rutgers University, the University of Rhode Island, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

On the Web:

NOAA Fisheries Service: www.nmfs.noaa.gov

NOAA: www.noaa.gov

NOAA NEFSC CMER Program: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/omes/cmer/>

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